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Daily Report

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Daily Report

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Chad

Rebels Repel Government, Enter Country

AB2603173290 Paris AFP in French 1616 GMT
26 Mar 90

[Text] Paris, 26 Mar (AFP)—Chadian rebels regrouped in Sudan and under the leadership of the dissident former commander-in-chief, Idriss Deby, have stated in a communique that they repelled an attack yesterday by Chadian Government forces and that they are now advancing into Chadian territory.

According to the communique, which was dated Khartoum and received in Paris, the Chadian troops yesterday morning attacked the command post of the "Salvation Patriotic Forces" at Bamisi, about 170 km inside Sudan's Darfour Province.

After "violent clashes," the communique added, the aggressors were repelled. They were chased first to the Bahay base, which "fell without resistance," and then to the reenforced base at Tine, where the garrison joined our forces."

The communique stated that the "Salvation Patriotic Forces" are continuing their advance into Chadian territory and called on troops of the Chadian regular army to join them. The Chadian Embassy in Paris refused to comment on the situation.

Following the defection in April last year of Commander in Chief Hassan Djamous and former Commander in Chief Idriss Deby, who, according to the official version, were involved in a destabilization attempt, President Hissein Habre's forces launched a pursuit operation into Sudanese territory during which Hassan Djamous was wounded, taken prisoner, and brought to Ndjamenah where he later died.

In October last year, the Chadian Army once again entered the Darfour area and according to Ndjamenah attacked "elements of the Islamic Legion" who were stationed there. Chad then denounced Libya's "direct implication" in these clashes and presented to the press a group of prisoners and various weapons seized or destroyed by the Chadian National Armed Forces (FANT).

An official report issued by the Chadian authorities said 600 enemy troops were killed. In Khartoum, meanwhile, the Chadian rebels claimed that they killed more than 1,200 government troops, including 191 officers.

Chad Accuses Libya of Attacks Via Sudan

AB2703095090 Paris AFP in English 0933 GMT
27 Mar 90

[Text] Paris, March 27 (AFP)—Chad has accused Libya of attacking its troops stationed along the border with Sudan's Darfur Province and accused Sudan of complicity.

In a statement issued late Monday after a special cabinet meeting and released through the Chad Embassy here, the Ndjamenah authorities said that Chad's Armed Forces (FANT) had been attacked at Bahai and Tine, on Chadian territory close to the Sudanese province of Darfur.

It said the clashes had been "particularly violent."

The statement recalled that in October and November last year Chadian troops had destroyed the "bases of the (Libyan) Islamic Legion" along the Libyan-Chad border, but it said "other troops, equipped with powerful new material and coming from Darfur, had carried out this new aggression.... proving that Libya has not abandoned its plan to destabilise and dismantle Chad".

Chad accused the Sudanese authorities of "irrefutably" choosing the enemy camp. "Their duplicity and complicity in this aggression, their support for the Islamic Legion and Libyan mercenaries, is common knowledge."

The statement said that Chad would use all material and human means to halt the aggression and "wipe out the Islamic Legion bases and the Libyan mercenaries."

Chad's statement came only hours after Chadian opposition groups loyal to dissident former Armed Forces commander Idriss Deby said they had repelled an attack by Chadian loyalist forces against their command post at Bamissi, 170 kms (106 miles) inside the Sudanese province of Darfur, and to have chased them back into Chadian territory.

Reports of the latest clashes came as ministerial delegations from Libya and Chad were due to meet in Libreville this week to discuss their border dispute over the Aouzou Strip which both countries claim. Gabon has been acting as mediator in the dispute.

There was no immediate reaction from Libya to the Chadian claims.

France, which boosted its military presence in Chad in 1986, has recently been cutting back. It has slashed its contingent at the anti-aircraft defence system stationed at Abeche, eastern Chad, from 300 to 100 men.

Gabon

New CNSS Director Named; Tension 'Easing'

AB2503211290 Dakar PANA in French 1432 GMT
24 Mar 90

[Text] Libreville, 24 Mar (AGP-GAB/PANA)—Calm seems to have returned to the National Social Security Fund, CNSS, and to its subsidiary services, which have been affected since 31 March by industrial actions following the appointment of Daniel Tchipandi as the managing director of this health institution, it was learned today in Libreville. Mr Tchipandi, who has replaced Omer Piankali, whose departure was requested by the striking employees, admitted yesterday that he is

beginning an assignment with numerous risks. Although these problems are serious, he pledged to spare no efforts to take up this important challenge.

The new CNSS managing director, who has a degree in economics, previously held a post at the Ministry of Social Welfare. The change that occurred at the CNSS means that one of the striking employees' several demands has been met. The remaining ones are salary increases, better working conditions, and the departure of a number of top officials blamed for poor management, as well as the repeal of the law cutting salaries in the parastatals.

The easing of tension at the CNSS has coincided with the opening of the national conference that will examine the manifesto of the Gabonese Social Democratic Rally (RSDG) and the definition of a program relating to the social welfare of all Gabonese.

Situation Said 'Quiet' in Port Gentil

*AB2503113190 Paris AFP in English 1059 GMT
25 Mar 90*

[Text] Libreville, March 25 (AFP)—The situation was quiet in Gabon's economic capital Port Gentil Sunday after a curfew was clamped on the city following riots which left many injured, residents reached by telephone said. Security forces have been deployed in various parts of the city but traffic was normal early Sunday, sources added.

Up to 1,200 demonstrators including many unemployed people attacked supermarkets and shops, some Lebanese-owned, smashing their windows and looting goods, according to earlier reports. They burned cars and vandalized newspaper kiosks, officials said, adding that the riots had erupted Friday and continued Saturday.

Medical sources said no injuries were reported overnight but Saturday hospitals treated several people for knife wounds and ruptured muscles. One person also suffered from bullet wounds after a shop owner fired on looters.

The curfew declared Saturday applies from eight p.m. (1900 GMT) to 6:30 a.m. (0530 GMT) and bans public gatherings of more than five people.

Many expatriates have left their homes and gathered in office buildings, while some U.S. citizens took refuge aboard ships anchored off Port Gentil, reliable sources said.

The Societe Gabonaise de Raffinage (SOGARA) said Sunday a strike that hit the oil refinery ended after management agreed to pay hikes. The strike caused service stations at Port Gentil to run out of petrol Friday after shipments were halted.

Strikes had hit oil refineries, hospitals, grain mills, poultry farms and the shipping sector, according to several reports Saturday.

Most of Gabon's petroleum industry is based in Port Gentil, which remained calm when demonstrations and strikes rocked Libreville, the capital city, in January and February.

Curfew Imposed, Strikes Banned

*AB2703084690 Paris AFP in English 0729 GMT
27 Mar 90*

[Text] Libreville, March 27 (APF)—The Gabon Government Tuesday imposed a curfew and banned strikes and demonstrations for the duration of a national conference being held here to work out political reforms.

Gatherings of more than five people are banned at all times, an official announcement said. People who tried to organise protest marches would be arrested and the authors of pamphlets and anonymous letters would be "severely dealt with".

The curfew runs from 7 p.m. (1800 GMT) to 6 a.m. (0500 GMT).

The week-long national conference, attended by about 150 political movements and professional groups, got off to a bad start when it opened last Friday [23 March] with the opposition accusing the ruling Gabon Democratic Party (PDG) of giving itself a built-in absolute majority. Initial plans allowed for between 500 and 600 PDG delegates and three each for other political groups.

Gabonese authorities climbed down, doubling the representation of independent and opposition political groups taking part in the conference.

The concession was announced at the weekend after riots in Port Gentil, the economic capital of this West African nation, ruled since 1967 by pro-French President Omar Bongo.

Police Halt Sebokeng March; 4 Killed

*MB2603115490 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1153 GMT 26 Mar 90*

[Text] Sebokeng, Vaal Triangle March 26 SAPA—At least four people were shot dead and several others wounded when police stopped a large group of people marching from the Sebokeng township in the Vaal Triangle on Monday [26 March].

By midday, the Sebokeng council offices were burning and according to an eye-witness, the Sebokeng hospital casualty department "looked like a war zone".

The eye-witness said a large group of policemen were involved in a stand-off situation with demonstrators. Police opened fire on the crowd leaving at least four people "lying still" on the ground.

The wounded were carried to a nearby Red Cross unit for treatment. Others were ferried to the hospital for treatment.

More on Township Violence

*MB2603145590 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1446 GMT 26 Mar 90*

[Text] Johannesburg, March 26, SAPA—At least two people were reported shot and killed by police in Sebokeng Township, Vereeniging, in a bloody violence which followed demonstrations by residents on Monday.

The demonstrators were protesting at high tariffs and other community-related issues. They were also demanding the resignation of town councillors in the Vaal triangle areas.

A spokeswoman for the Transvaal Provincial Administration (TPA), told SAPA by telephone the two died on arrival at the Sebokeng Hospital on Monday. Three-hundred others were treated, 130 X-rayed and two admitted with serious injuries. They were in the hospital's intensive care unit. By 3 pm many more people were still streaming into the casualty unit of the hospital, said the TPA spokeswoman.

Police gave only sketchy details of the situation, saying four people were injured in Sebokeng on Monday. They did not, however, say how and when they were injured.

A spokeswoman for the Public Relations Division of police in Pretoria, Lt. Miranda Erasmus, said she had no knowledge of any people killed in Sebokeng. She said, however, police would issue an interim unrest report later.

Unconfirmed reports earlier said offices of the local town council were doused with petrol and set alight after four people were shot and killed by police.

A SAPA staffer in Sebokeng said the situation was tense with police mounted on armoured vehicles firing teargas at rampaging demonstrators. Burning barricades of tyres, stones and empty teargas canisters were strewn in

the streets. Demonstrators were allegedly demanding petrol from motorists apparently to use it in setting targets alight.

Police were allegedly firing teargas at rampaging youths as they engaged in running battles.

Witnesses told SAPA by telephone the violence started immediately after demonstrators presented a petition at the local council.

Vlok Regrets Clash

*MB2703092590 Johannesburg SAPA in English
0922 GMT 27 Mar 90*

[By Mark van der Velden]

[Text] London March 27 SAPA—Law and Order Minister Adriaan Vlok said in a radio interview in London on Tuesday [27 March] that he deeply regretted the bloody clash between police and black demonstrators at Sebokeng on Monday.

He and senior ANC [African National Congress] executive Walter Sisulu were interviewed telephonically by BBC morning radio, which reported at least eight deaths so far and many injured in the clash.

Mr. Vlok said he was "very sorry" about what happened but denied strongly that police at the scene had provoked the violent clash and shot to kill, reiterating they were under standing orders to handle such situations with the utmost restraint.

The police force were, in fact, standing accused of not doing their duties properly, and these accusation were not coming only from the so-called rightwing, he added.

Mr. Sisulu said he accepted top-level police orders to officers on the ground were to act with restraint, but claimed policemen at Sebokeng had ignored this instruction and opened fire.

Police Issue Unrest Report for 26 Mar

*MB2703095290 Johannesburg SAPA in English
0949 GMT 27 Mar 90*

[Text] Pretoria March 27 SAPA—Herewith the daily unrest report as supplied by the police division of public relations in Pretoria:

In our unrest report yesterday, we reported an incident which occurred at Mahwaqa (Hibberdene). In what would appear to be a revenge attack, a large group of blacks armed with pangas [large knives] and knives, killed 7 black men in the same area.

The following unrest-related incidents were reported during the past 24 hours:

At Refenghotso (Deneysville) a mob stoned a police vehicle and a private vehicle. Extensive damage was caused. Police used tearsmoke, rubber bullets and bird-shot to disperse the mob. No injuries were reported.

At Masilo (Theunissen) a large mob threw stones at a bus and at members of the SA Police. The bus was badly damaged. Rubber bullets and birdshot were used to disperse the mob. Five men and 2 youths were arrested. No injuries were reported.

In another incident in the area, arsonists caused serious damage to a policeman's house.

At Hambanati (Port Shepstone area) a private dwelling was extensively damaged in a petrol-bomb attack. Police arrested 4 men in connection with the incident.

At Fairview Mission (Port Shepstone) police found the body of a black man with stab wounds. Police arrested 7 black men and 3 black youths.

At KwaShange (Natal) a large mob set fire to a bus and stabbed a black man to death. The bus was extensively damaged.

At Izingolweni (near Port Shepstone) a group of blacks tried to force shop-owners to close their shops by intimidating them. A black man was arrested by the police.

At Piet Retief, a group of blacks marched to the magistrate's court. Police warned the group to disperse and this was done. However, stones were then thrown at the police and tearsmoke was used to disperse the stone-throwers. Four youths were arrested.

At Khutsong (Oberholzer) a policeman's house was attacked with petrol-bombs and shotgun fire was used to disperse the attackers. The policeman who owns the house was injured during the incident.

At Jourberton (Klerksdorp) a group of blacks threw stones at a police vehicle and a round of birdshot was used to disperse the mob. A woman was injured. In another incident in the area, a private vehicle was set alight and extensively damaged in a separate incident. Tearsmoke was used to disperse those involved.

Yesterday's violence in Sebokeng and other black residential areas in the Vaal Triangle:

At about midday yesterday, a group of about 50,000 blacks marched through Sebokeng towards Vereeniging. The group was militant and those present were armed with an assortment of weapons—stones, sticks, knobkerries [knobsticks], bottles and iron pipes. A police officer stopped the group and informed the people that the procession to Vereeniging was unlawful. It had previously been prohibited by the magistrate, Vereeniging.

The officer was informed that the organisers of the procession wished to hand a petition/memorandum to the responsible official at the Department of Education and Training in Vereeniging. A police officer undertook to hand the memorandum over to the said department and the memorandum was handed to him.

However, the mob began singing, shouting and threatened to attack the police. Stones, bottles and knobkerries

were thrown at the police and 2 members were injured. A number of police vehicles were also damaged. In self-defence, the members used tearsmoke and shotguns to ward off the attack. During this incident, two people were reported to have been fatally wounded and a large number of others wounded.

A number of gatherings and stone-throwing incidents had taken place during the course of the morning but the majority of the incidents occurred after the incident mentioned above.

A further 3 men were fatally wounded and 3 others wounded after a large mob plundered a bottle store. During this incident, police used shotgun fire to disperse the mob. Extensive damage was caused to the property. Sixteen other men were arrested. A further three policemen were injured in stone-throwing incidents and a number of police vehicles were damaged. A further 11 people were arrested.

A summary of casualties and arrests as follows:

5 people fatally wounded

130 people were apparently injured during police action and a similar number were apparently injured under other circumstances.

Very few injuries were actually reported to the police and hospital records were able to give an indication of the number treated.

Twenty seven (27) people were arrested.

At Evaton, stones were also thrown at the police. In one such incident, a policeman was injured. Two men and 3 youths were arrested at a road barricade. In another incident, a large mob extensively damaged a service station. Tyres were set alight and the premises plundered. When police arrived, stones were thrown at them and a police vehicle was damaged. Tearsmoke, rubber bullets and birdshot were used to disperse the mob. No injuries were reported. Another man was arrested after a police vehicle was stoned and damaged.

At Bophelong (Vanderbijlpark) stones were thrown at police vehicles. Two policemen were injured (these injuries were mentioned on yesterday's interim report) and 3 men and a youth were also injured when police used birdshot to disperse the mob.

Government Said to Plan Joint ANC Committee

MB2503111590 Johannesburg SUNDAY TIMES
in English 25 Mar 90 p 1

[By Dries van Heerden]

[Text] The Government is already looking beyond next month's pipe-opening talks with the ANC [African National Congress]—and foresees the swift creation of joint committees to get real negotiations going.

The ANC is more cautious. Yesterday, deputy president Nelson Mandela told a meeting in Nelspruit that the historic encounter on April 11 would be primarily aimed at removing obstacles to full-blown negotiations.

These included the state of emergency, the release of political prisoners, the return of exiles and the suspension of political trials.

However, highly placed sources believe the government already has plans to dispose of these obstacles quickly.

It will propose the creation of joint committees consisting of senior Government and ANC representatives. They will deal with issues such as proportional representation, a bill of rights, the economy and the judiciary.

Meanwhile, a number of venues for the meeting, scheduled for two days, are being considered. A Cape wine farm, a five-star hotel and Tuynhuys itself have so far been mentioned.

The government delegation will be led by President de Klerk and will include Dr Gerrit Viljoen, Mr Pik Botha, Mr Kobie Coetsee, Mr Hernus Kriel, Dr Stoffel van der Merwe and Mr Roelf Meyer.

Mr Mandela will lead an ANC team that is likely to include Secretary-General Alfred Nzo, the movement's chief diplomat Mr Thabo Mbeki, and two senior members of the ANC's military wing, Umkhonto we Sizwe, Mr Joe Modise and Mr Chris Hani.

Mr De Klerk and his Cabinet will meet at a secret bushveld venue during the week before the talks to prepare their strategy.

According to sources, President de Klerk has addressed a number of important Broederbond meetings over the last few weeks to inform the members of the government's intentions.

At a meeting held two weeks ago at Hartbeespoort Dam, he told senior Broeders that negotiations "could take years rather than months" to be concluded. He also gave them the assurance that "the government will not sell white interests down the river."

ANC Office Reacts to Reports on Delegation

MB2603160790 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1559 GMT 26 Mar 90

[Text] Johannesburg March 26 SAPA—Reports on Monday about the non-arrival of an ANC [African National Congress] delegation in Johannesburg were denounced as pure media speculation by Lusaka based ANC Information Officer To Sebina.

"The composition of the delegation has not yet been decided upon let alone when they will leave for South Africa," Mr Sebina told Joan Fubbs in a telephone interview from Lusaka.

He said Jack Zuma, ANC chief of intelligence, had been in Johannesburg for four days to confer with the internal wing of the ANC on the delegation's composition and most suitable date for their arrival in South Africa.

"Headlines like security fears delay ANC exiles return are based on interpretation of rumours and not reality," Mr Sebina said.

He added the non-arrival of a top-level ANC delegation in South Africa was not directly related to problems concerning their possible prosecution for earlier activities.

A senior government spokesman said on Monday in Cape Town that plans were in the pipeline to remove any impediment to the arrival of ANC delegates in South Africa for talks with the government.

The spokesman said the logical solution would be a moratorium on prosecution until suitable legislation could be passed and implemented by the Department of Justice. It was expected these plans would be fully operational before the end of the week, the government spokesman said.

Reports on Monday also said the cancellation of the visit to South Africa by an expected 19-strong ANC delegation followed an unfavorable report to the ANC National Executive Committee by Mr Zuma.

According to reports published in several newspapers on Monday, Chris Hani, chief of staff of the ANC's military arm Umkhonto we Sizwe and political commissar Steve Tshwete, were to have been included in the ANC delegation.

Buthelezi Announces March Meeting With ANC

MB2603152190 Johannesburg THE CITIZEN
in English 26 Mar 90 p 4

[Excerpt] Durban—Plans for talks to end the violence in Natal are on track, and could take place this month.

Inkatha President Dr. Mangosuthu Buthelezi confirmed yesterday that the mooted conference between ANC [African National Congress] internal leader Mr. Walter Sisulu and a delegation led by the Zulu King, had been put on ice.

But it had been replaced by a meeting between Dr. Buthelezi, King Goodwill Zwelithini and ANC troubleshooter and deputy president Mr. Nelson Mandela.

A decision on the venue issue, which stalemated the Sisulu meeting, has apparently been accepted by all parties, and talks should happen this month, said Dr. Buthelezi yesterday.

He said Mr. Mandela had telephoned the King on Saturday [24 March] and had allegedly attempted to persuade him to accept a meeting at Nongoma (where the King's palace is). The King had refused and had stipulated Ulundi (seat of the KwaZulu Government).

Mr. Mandela had then asked to speak to Dr. Buthelezi. "His first words to me were: 'I think the King is very angry with me,'" said Dr. Buthelezi.

The rest of the conversation had been to resolve a date for joint talks between the KwaZulu Chief Minister, The Zulu King and Mr. Mandela.

Although attempts to contact Mr. Mandela from Durban yesterday were unsuccessful, it would seem from this and earlier reports that the ANC has agreed to compromise on the venue issue, and talks will happen at Ulundi—little more than the capital of a bantustan, in the eyes of the ANC.

South African Communist Party stalwart Mr Rowley Arenstein, a long-time friend of Dr. Buthelezi, at one point led the crowd at the King's Park rally, chanting: "We are not a Bantustan."

The KwaZulu Government's decision to resist independence being thrust upon it by the South African Government had in fact defeated the homelands policy, he claimed.

"Since when," he asked of Mr. Sisulu's requirement that talks should happen at Nongoma, "does the visitor tell the host where to meet?"

The crowd, of between 5,000 and 8,000 people, standing in pouring rain, cheered his words. [passage omitted]

Buthelezi Details Issues for Negotiations

*MB2603147890 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1420 GMT 26 Mar 90*

[Text] Ulundi March 26 SAPA—KwaZulu's Chief Minister Mangosuthu Buthelezi for the first time on Monday publicly outlined the issues he will be taking to a negotiating table on South Africa's political future.

At the same time he expressed concern over the proposed April 11 talks between government and the ANC [African National Congress] over preconditions to negotiations saying there were indications the ANC was preparing to "pack its bags and go home" as an option, should negotiations get tough.

"We are being plunged into a situation in which talks about talks start becoming negotiations and negotiations are fragmented with the left hand not knowing what the right hand is doing," he said in his address on Monday to the KwaZulu Legislative Assembly.

"It is probably not worth starting negotiations unless there are assurances that those who are negotiating are serious about what they are doing and will face whatever difficulties there are without threats of walk-outs."

He believed the ANC was adopting a confrontationist position in the politics of negotiation, saying that if the ANC was sincere about negotiations it no longer needed to continue with its armed struggle and continue its call for South Africa's punitive economic isolation.

He indicated in his address he would be raising these issues with government and other political parties.

He will urge government to establish a commission, composed of all parliamentary political parties, together with Inkatha, the ANC/UDF [United Democratic Front], the Azanian Peoples Organization and the SA Communist Party and representations of other interested political parties or organisations.

"In this approach all the notable players in the field can each have their say in what should or should not be done and have it in such a way that it is out in the open. My concern is deepening about complications multiplying and growing while we talk about talks," he said.

The ANC would be talking to government about the very same issues he, as Inkatha leader, would be raising with government, Dr Buthelezi said, pointing out that he had a mandate from his people to enter into negotiations.

He was a "tried and tested" leader and people believed in him, Dr Buthelezi asserted.

The main issues he would be taking to the negotiating table included:

- That South Africa should be a sovereign state;
- That there could only be one sovereign parliament no matter how the country's "minority problems" were dealt with;
- That there has to be universal adult franchise possibly with an entrenched bill of rights which could protect minorities without in any way making the vote of one South African of lesser or greater importance than any other vote;
- That there must be a rule of law which, unlike the past, did not allow the politics of Parliament to manipulate the courts or the appellate division;
- And the need for democracy as captured by the universal declaration of human rights.

He would be arguing for total democracy and would fight for the acceptance of free enterprise as the only way to ensure democracy worked.

"The redistribution of wealth is something that big business and government after apartheid will have to discuss in the search for a formula in which each can best do what each can best do without destroying the productive capacity of South Africa."

Some form of a mixed economy would have to evolve but he would not talk the language of nationalisation because that was "fatal talk", he said.

He was not unduly worried about economic issues in the politics of negotiation because there was a massive grassroots demand for a responsible free enterprise system that provided jobs and created wealth.

Dr Buthelezi envisaged alliance politics would emerge and divide the negotiating forces into camps, and added he would side with anyone who fought for the principles which he believed in.

Fundamental issues already tabled included the Harare document which he believed was an official summary of the ANC's present position. "This is a totally no-go document as far as I am concerned. It expects the SA Government to hand over power because that is what the document demands.

"Whether the government hands over power to the ANC itself or whether it hands over power to a constituent assembly, it is still handing over power, it is still divesting itself of the power to govern. If the government dared do that, there would be a very problematic and even unmanageable white backlash," he warned.

He concluded by saying the stage was set for negotiations. The "cackle" had to be cut, sleeves rolled up and the job of negotiations started.

24 Mar Press Review on Current Problems, Issues MB2403093790

[Editorial Report]

SATURDAY STAR

Blacks 'Refuse' To See Through Divisive 'Plot'—Joe Latakomo writes in his "Write On!" column on page 10 of Johannesburg SATURDAY STAR in English on 24 March: "Every year, at about this time, one of the most tragic aspects of our way of life is played out in Parliament. The Government is asked about the classification and reclassification of various people. A more telling way of demonstrating the effects of apartheid and, in particular, the Population Registration Act, has yet to be found. In the past year, 1,123 people were reclassified from one race group to another." "I often wonder just what it is that drives people to go through what must be a very humiliating experience. Surely, even F.W. de Klerk must realise just what a mockery this kind of statement about the nation makes of us as a people. But then, our country is obsessed with 'race' and 'tribe.' Are we not seeing the fruit of Dr. Verwoerd's effort as blacks attack blacks for being 'Zulus,' simply because they happen to live in single-sex hostels? And yet, even we as black people—there I go, too—refuse to see through this whole plot to divide us, and happily go on killing each other. Like Bismarck, the whites must be saying to themselves: 'Let them smash each other if they have to—we will collect the pieces.' That is the nature of our lives in this country, and I cannot for the life of me see how the struggle towards a just, democratic non-racial society is advanced by directing our fury at other blacks. Is there, perhaps, some dark force which is deliberately misdirecting the struggle? I wonder."

THE CITIZEN

Inquiry Must Probe Johannesburg 'Spying'—Commenting on the Johannesburg City Council's "municipal spying", a page 6 editorial in Johannesburg THE CITIZEN in English on 22 March declares: "We do not believe the city council should be engaged in spying of any kind." "The thought of spies actually being paid ratepayers' money to spy on ratepayers and organisations is absolutely horrifying." "A commission of inquiry should be set up immediately." "Let's have the inquiry—and let heads roll."

Violence Calls for 'Drastic' Measures—"Judging by the police unrest report, the situation is back to the 1984-86 period which brought about the introduction of the state of emergency," asserts THE CITIZEN in a page 6 editorial on 23 March. Controlling the violence will be "extremely difficult," because the government "cannot clamp down on organisations behind the unrest, having unbanned or lifted restrictions on them" and because "harsh suppression of unrest would undo the favourable image" created by President de Klerk's "bold reforms." However, "the need to do something drastic is imperative." "The answer is for troops to move into the Natal unrest areas in force, for a strong police presence in unrest areas, and for instigators of the unrest to desist from their dangerous game." Violence must end "for the sake of the negotiations that are to come. For the sake of peace, there must be no white counter-violence."

CAPE TIMES

Nation Prospers With 'Newly Enhanced Standing'—In view of South Africa's "newly enhanced standing," "direct contact now seems likely with the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) which spearheaded the isolation of this country," observes a page 6 editorial in Cape Town CAPE TIMES in English on 20 March. "Now that SADF [South African Defense Force] destabilisation of the subcontinent is no longer official policy, friendly relations with neighbour states and access to South Africa's natural markets are again possible." "Even an obdurate President Mugabe must concede that apartheid is on the way out. What is more, the De Klerk government, identifying poverty as the next big challenge, is putting its money where its mouth is—in spectacular fashion."

Building 'Confidence' Precludes World Ties—CAPE TIMES states in a page 8 editorial on 21 March: "In ultimately fulfilling its international obligation to Namibia, South Africa has removed a major point of conflict in its relations with the world community. It remains for Pretoria to resolve its own constitutional impasse before the isolation of recent times can be fully overcome. Yet giant strides have already been made by President de Klerk, who is hardly putting a foot wrong." "There are still formidable problems in our foreign relations, some of which will be easier to resolve once negotiation has begun at home and the Department of Foreign Affairs is becoming more representative of the

population as a whole." "Confidence-building at home and abroad is the name of the game as South Africa moves to resume its rightful place among the nations of the world."

CAPE TIMES

Unrest 'Worrying, Controllable'—"It would appear that many white South Africans—and not just those who support right-wing causes—have taken fright at the aftermath of President de Klerk's February 2 speech," notes a second editorial on the same page. Foreign embassies report "substantial increases" in queries about immigration. "Such flurries are frequently sparked by periods of political uncertainty in South Africa. The irony is that those unsettled by recent events include many who have long supported fundamental change." "They gave F.W. de Klerk the chance he asked for. He responded in spectacular fashion, and now they are doubting whether they have a place in the envisaged new society. They are appalled by the resurgence of senseless anarchy." "Perhaps having given Mr de Klerk a chance in the first place, the would-be emigrants should also give the consequences of his actions a chance to settle." "The sudden rise in unrest, though worrying, is controllable."

Johannesburg 'Espionage' Characterizes 'Degeneracy'—"The incredible disclosures of an espionage network in Johannesburg financed from ratepayers funds without the knowledge of the management committee of that city point to degeneracy in standards of public life. South Africa is indebted to the investigative journalism of THE STAR newspaper which has brought this sinister practice into the open," asserts CAPE TIMES in a page 8 editorial on 22 March. "All South Africans who believe in accountable municipal and national government will demand that the whole matter be thoroughly investigated and strong action taken."

TRANSVALER

De Klerk Survives 'Week of Weighty Diplomatic Contact'—"In addition to the difficult reform road at home, the state president this week found himself on the diplomatic battlefield," observes a page 10 editorial in Johannesburg TRANSVALER in Afrikaans on 21 March. "Indications are that he stands to achieve significant diplomatic gains. This started in Windhoek yesterday. De Klerk's meeting with leading African leaders (some of whom have always been pigheaded about overt cooperation) could not have taken place at a more appropriate time." "Judged against this background, the state president's groundwork in Windhoek was a diplomatic show of considerable significance. At the very least, it will help to start shaping better attitudes, which are best achieved through this kind of personal contact. The same applies to the meeting this week with the U.S. secretary of state. The decision that Baker visit South Africa is already a breakthrough which can be attributed to De Klerk's political daring. Add to that the fruitful

discussions on Monday [19 March] with the British foreign secretary, and we have a week of weighty diplomatic contact."

Mugabe 'Difficult To Understand'—A page 10 TRANSVALER editorial on 22 March declares: "It has always been difficult for Robert Mugabe to conceal his feelings toward South Africa. That it is mainly a feeling of hatred is well known." "But, for the Zimbabwean leader to maintain such an attitude while others on the subcontinent are trying to build bridges toward a new southern African dispensation is difficult to understand." "This week, he decided at a late stage not to travel to Windhoek, where the state president met the presidents of Angola and Mozambique." "Mugabe is once again beating the drums in the presidential election. He is making fiery promises about taking land from white farmers to give to others. In his heart, he knows the foreign exchange earnings of the white farming sector keep his country out of a threatening economic morass. It won't be long before his socialist ways catch up with him."

26 Mar Press Review

MB2603133890

[Editorial Report]

SUNDAY TIMES

Praise for De Klerk's 'Sincere' Reform—Johannesburg SUNDAY TIMES in English on 25 March in a page 26 editorial says the industrial nations of the northern hemisphere have interests in South Africa's "natural resources" and also in the "general stability of the subcontinent, the economic survival of which is utterly dependent on this country's capacity to produce." Therefore, Mr. Nelson Mandela should realize "why his appeals for South Africa's diplomatic isolation were ignored and why many countries have seized upon President De Klerk's reforms as a reason to restore the country to at least partial respectability." SUNDAY TIMES also warns the "contemporary world" has "scant patience with those who still persist in punting the economic theories of, say, Tanzania or pre-perestroika Central Europe." SUNDAY TIMES also refers to the "world's relief" that De Klerk is "someone who looks sincere in his desire to steer it [South Africa] away from the apocalypse which much of the world had begun to believe was inevitable."

Open White State Schools 'Bold' Plan—"The De Klerk administration's reform programme continues to barrel along with breathtaking speed and bold initiatives," observes a second editorial on the same page. "There is none more bold than the plan to open white State schools next year." Government is "creating the best opportunity for progress."

SUNDAY STAR

Intelligence Jeopardize Country' Security—Referring to the alleged "spy network" in the Johannesburg City

Council, Johannesburg SUNDAY STAR in English on 25 March in its page 14 editorial says: "The time has arrived for a judicial probe into the country's security and intelligence services, conducted at every level where such undercover work was or is undertaken." The Harms Commission of inquiry into alleged "hit squads" is "too narrow in its terms of reference for the scope of such an inquiry. Intelligence and security have gone off the rails, themselves jeopardising the security of the country."

THE STAR

RSA 'Reacceptance' in the World—South Africa "can look with satisfaction on the valuable international spin-off from its attitude on Namibia," remarks a page 12 editorial in Johannesburg THE STAR in English on 26 March. The Namibian independence celebrations allowed F.W. de Klerk to "engage in direct dialogue" with many world statesmen in Windhoek which took place "in defiance of the expressed wishes of the ANC [African National Congress] and PAC [Pan-Africanist Congress]." If the road to South Africa's reacceptance in the world is "through Africa," then "last week's encounters must have helped open the way."

BUSINESS DAY

Warning Against Negotiation 'Impatience'—The first problem to be overcome on 11 April when the government meets with the ANC is "to decide who should be released from prison, or granted an amnesty or pardon and allowed to return home." The second problem is "to decide who will be included in the negotiations." The

unbanning of the ANC and the release of its leaders "has already exposed the limits to the authority of the ANC; it does not, plainly, represent all black opinion, but neither is it a simple matter to identify the proper representatives of the black communities." Therefore, BUSINESS DAY urges "measured and careful progress; there is too much at stake to risk mistakes through impatience."

BEELD

Price of Namibian Independence—Johannesburg BEELD in Afrikaans on 22 March in a page 14 editorial asks whether the price for the Namibian independence was "too high?" "Obviously the price for peace was high. The highest offers were bought by South Africa's sons" and it was "fitting" that President de Klerk paid tribute to them before handing over government powers to President Nujoma. "The extra time which was bought by South African troops—time in which people in Windhoek could be educated in parliamentary procedures—was not that cheap."

Government Critics Change Views—A second editorial on the same page says the "hard reality" of South Africa is also catching up with the Black Sash "an outspoken opponent of the government and the defense force." Referring to the Black Sash request that the defense force return to the townships, BEELD says "now that the churches and other institutions are defenseless against the escalating violence the Black Sash is asking the defense force to restore calm." "How ironic. Don't other critics of the government also want to adjust their actions realistically?"

Angola**More on Baker Meeting With UNITA's Savimbi***MB2403125190 Johannesburg International Service in English 1100 GMT 24 Mar 90*

[Text] The UNITA [National Union for the Total Independence of Angola] leader, Dr. Jonas Savimbi, says his movement is striving for a cease-fire in Angola.

Addressing newsmen after talks with the American secretary of state, Mr. James Baker, at Nsele, the country estate on the banks of the Zaire River, Dr. Savimbi said it was his movement's duty to end the war in Angola.

American officials say the fighting in southeastern Angola has apparently reached a stalemate after initial government successes, and that both sides could be ready to return to the bargaining table.

Mr. Baker's talks in Zaire conclude his six-day African trip during which he attended the independence celebrations in Namibia and afterwards visited South Africa for consultations with internal leaders.

Zimbabwe**Registrar Expects Election Results 30 Mar***MB2603174590 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1709 GMT 26 Mar 90*

[Text] Harare, March 26, SAPA—The results of Zimbabwe's two-day general elections this week are expected to be announced by Friday [30 March] night, the ZIANA news agency reported on Monday.

The registrar-general, Mr. Tobaiwa Mudede, told a news briefing in Harare on Monday that the March 28-29 parliamentary and presidential election votes would be counted from Friday morning.

"We start counting in the morning and the results will be announced as they come—province by province—and we hope by Friday night all the results will be known," he said.

More than 4.8 million Zimbabweans are expected to vote on Wednesday and Thursday for 120 parliamentarians and for the country's president.

There are more than 270 candidates contesting the election. Nine of the 120 constituencies are uncontested and in these constituencies there will only be a presidential election poll.

The post of president is being contested by President Robert Mugabe and the opposition Zimbabwe Unity Movement (ZUM) leader, Mr. Edgar Tekere.

Five political parties, including the ruling ZANU (PF) [Zimbabwe African National Union (Patriotic Front)], are contesting the elections.

Tekere Files Suit on Mugabe Election Papers*MB2603164890 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1643 GMT 26 Mar 90*

[Text] Harare, March 26, SAPA—Zimbabwe Unity Movement (ZUM) leader Edgar Tekere filed a petition in the high court in Harare on Monday against registrar-general Tobaiwa Mudede, claiming that the papers filed by President Robert Mugabe on nomination day for the Zimbabwe presidential election were not in order.

Mr. Tekere is seeking an order invalidating Pres. Mugabe's nomination and declaring him (Tekere) duly elected unopposed as president.

Mr. Justice Adam heard an application on Monday from Mr. Tekere and ordered that the matter be set down for hearing on Tuesday [27 March] at 11 am in the high court.

In his application for an urgent hearing, Mr. Tekere's election agent, Jerry Nyambuya, said in an affidavit he was given access on March 22 to the nomination papers of Pres. Mugabe, as a candidate for the presidential election and immediately drew up papers to challenge the nomination in court, on instructions from Mr. Tekere.

Mr. Nyambuya claims some of the names he found on the nomination papers accepted by the registrar-general were not on the voters roll.

Last week, Mr. Tekere filed an application before Mr. Justice Greenland in the high court, seeking an order that he be allowed to inspect Pres. Mugabe's nomination papers but the application was withdrawn, after the registrar-general granted him access to the papers.

BBC Interviews Tekere on Upcoming Elections*MB2603174990 London BBC World Service in English 1615 GMT 26 Mar 90*

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[Excerpts] The campaign for this week's elections in Zimbabwe is turning out to be a very dirty one indeed.

Voters go to the polls starting Wednesday [28 March].

The main contenders are President Mugabe's ZANU-PF [Zimbabwe African National Union-Patriotic Front] and Edgar Tekere's ZUM [Zimbabwe Unity Movement].

There have been accusations of intimidation, planned vote rigging, and even coup plots. [passage omitted]

In Harare, Julian Borger asked Edgar Tekere why he thinks the election will be rigged.

[Begin recording] [Tekere] No, I don't think it is going to be rigged: I know, it is a fact. They are talking about it quite frankly, quite openly. (Mahachi), the commissar of the party, goes to Mutare, a few weeks ago. He gets together, one evening, leaders of ZANU-PF Party in

Mutare. He simply says to them: I don't have a chance in a free and fair election here. Listen, ZUM is going to beat us. So, in order to stay in power, we are going to have to steal, to steal the ZUM votes.

[Borger] So, if you are so very sure that the election is going to be rigged, why go on? If you say [words indistinct] why participate in it?

[Tekere] No, it is very important that ZUM participates. We are helping the people of Zimbabwe see what this leadership is like, to show that they are deceivers. Then, also, by way of drumming it home that they are not in power for keeps, they have done lots of wrong for the people of our country, and they must get to understand that there comes a time when they must get out.

[Borger] Now, if you declared a loser and you believe that the election has been rigged, what will you do then?

[Tekere] You cannot rig in this election, and we fail to know that that is what you have done.

[Borger] President Mugabe had said that if you lose you are planning to incite a coup amongst the armed forces. What is your reaction to that?

[Tekere] I think his behavior is what is inciting. If he is scared of a revolt by the military [laughs] he knows very well what he has been doing wrong, and if I merely mention those things by way of an observation, then I am not inciting anything. In any case, Mugabe must be told this, yes. He should be very careful because I think he has gone a long way to losing all legitimacy in this country, and he shouldn't be found to be complaining, yes.

[Borger] Do you think you have a lot of support amongst the military?

[Tekere] I don't, I don't...[changes thought] it is not something I particularly apply my mind to, but Mugabe doesn't like it, but, yes, every soldier is entitled to vote if he has registered as a voter [laughs]. Only about the day before yesterday, he had his people in a police camp in Mutare canvassing among the policemen that they vote ZANU-PF. O.k., I am saying vote ZUM, not ZANU-PF. ZANU-PF is rotten. So, I am saying the same to the soldiers.

[Borger] But, you said on a number of occasions that if ZANU-PF rigged this election, they won't lose 12 months in government. What did you mean by that?

[Tekere] Right, this is simply what I mean. You see, this is the way I see it: We in Zimbabwe went through a very bitter war, and when you look at why we went through a bitter war, we wanted to achieve universal adult suffrage, a vote, an equal vote for everyone who is an adult. Now, we went to war about that, and at the end of the war, we achieved that, one man, one vote. Now, for anybody, it is easy. I don't think it needs any explanation at all: for anybody to interfere with that right, that very fundamental right to determine the government of your choice, for anybody to temper with that right, what do you want then, what do you suppose to expect from the people of Zimbabwe? They are used to getting their rights by physical and, you know, violent upheavals. They have done it before, only recently. And, for anybody, you do that at your peril, and Mugabe is not intelligent enough to understand that.

[Borger] So, what you are saying is people will take up arms once more?

[Tekere] It will happen. It will happen.

[Borger] And what would your role be in that?

[Tekere] I have already said it, that I shall live long enough to witness it, and I shall be a distant observer. [end recording]

ZANU-PF, ZUM Supporters Fight in Masvingo

*MB2503103090 Johannesburg SAPA in English
0858 GMT 25 Mar 90*

[text] Masvingo March 25 SAPA—Five people were slightly injured at Masvingo on Saturday night when ZANU-PF [Zimbabwe African National Union-Patriotic Front] and ZUM [Zimbabwe Unity Movement] supporters clashed at Masvingo's Mandava Hotel, ZIANA national news agency reports.

According to eye-witnesses, the fighting broke out at about 7:30 pm when ZANU-PF supporters who had just disembarked from a truck started singing and chanting slogans when ZUM supporters who were already inside the hotel premises tried to silence them, alleging that they were making noise.

It took about 20 minutes for hotel patrons to break off the fight. Police confirmed the incident and said no arrests have yet been made.

Niger

French Minister Stops Over, Comments on Ties

*AB2303184890 Niamey Domestic Service in French
1900 GMT 22 Mar 90*

[Text] The head of state today received a French delegation led by Cooperation Minister Jacques Pelletier and Jean-Christophe Mitterrand, adviser to the French president on African affairs. The delegation arrived from Windhoek, where it had attended ceremonies marking Namibia's independence yesterday. Let us listen to the statement made by Mr. Pelletier after the meeting:

[Begin Pelletier recording] First, I would tell you that I have come from Namibia, and it is always moving to have attended a nation's independence ceremonies because this is not something that happens every day. Indeed, there were many officials present, and this facilitated several diplomatic contacts. I think that once again we were able to reactivate the peace process in Africa thanks to the various meetings that were held.

On my way back to Paris, I decided to stop over in Niamey to call on Niger President Ali Saibou and examine with him the country's economic, financial, and political situation. I have come to express France's support for him because my country is interested in what has been done in Niger over the past few years, namely the birth of a law-abiding state and the introduction of freedom of speech and democracy. This is very important for us, the French people, and this is why we deem it necessary to back President Saibou's efforts in this direction. Of course, democracy is not something that can be achieved overnight. Democracy means that all citizens should feel responsible for their country and, of course, be given the right to discharge their duties. But, this is not understood in all countries in the world, although this is what democracy indeed means—in other words, all citizens should feel in charge of their country's development. They should feel responsible and know that a citizen has his rights but also his duties.

In the economic and financial fields, Niger is confronted with a crisis as is the case with many countries in the world and in Africa. Of course, this is due to the considerable fall in the prices of their raw materials and to their heavy indebtedness. All this makes it very difficult for them to balance their budgets every year, but France is trying to do its best to aid its African allies, for instance (?writing off) a great part of the debts they owe France. I think this move has helped the budgets of several states confronted with difficulties. My country is also making efforts regarding prices of raw materials, and this is the most difficult problem. But Africans and, particularly Niger citizens, should know that France will not drop them at this very difficult moment.

It has often been said that France and Europe were going to disengage from Africa because of the need to help Eastn European countries that have just recovered democracy. I can say that this is wrong. Of course, we

will help these countries, but this help will require additional financial efforts from us. It will not be deducted from what is made available for African countries. You know, I am used to giving two figures: French aid for development in 1990 has increased by 9 percent compared with that of 1989; concerning the Lome Convention that we signed in December 1989, the European Fund for Development has increased by 45 percent compared with that of the past year. In conclusion, these two figures clearly show that neither France nor Europe has turned its back on Africa. I am eager to say this publicly to reassure the African countries. [end recording]

The meeting was also attended by the minister of foreign affairs and cooperation as well as those of finance and mines and energy. Also present were the minister of economic promotion and the French ambassador to Niger.

Nigeria

Shevardnadze Arrives on Official Visit

*AB2503223690 Lagos Domestic Service
in English 2100 GMT 25 Mar 90*

[Text] The Soviet foreign minister, Mr. Eduard Shevardnadze, arrived in Lagos today on a two-day official visit to the country. Those who were at the airport to receive him included his Nigerian counterpart, Alhaji Rilwanu Lukman. Mr. Shevardnadze is expected to pay a courtesy call on President Ibrahim Babangida and address a news conference before ending his visit tomorrow.

Discusses Economic Cooperation

*AB2603202590 Lagos International Service
in English 0930 GMT 26 Mar 90*

[Text] Thirty-six Soviet enterprises are reported to have indicated their desire to enter into joint ventures with Nigerian firms. About a similar number of Nigerian companies have shown interest in the Soviet market. Alhaji Rilwanu Lukman, Nigeria's minister of external affairs, announced this in Lagos last night at a dinner in honor of the visiting Soviet foreign minister, Mr. Eduard Shevardnadze. Alhaji Rilwanu believed that if adequate support was given to the process [words indistinct] request for joint ventures underscored, the economic relations between the two countries would achieve greater heights.

The minister also disclosed that the two countries were working hard at preparing for the inaugural meeting of Nigeria-USSR joint commission. The commission will discuss the agreements on trade, economic, scientific and technical cooperation, air services, culture and education. The minister also said the commission would also deliberate on the conclusion of the proposed agreements on consular operations, legal assistance, promotion and protection of investments.

On Ajaokuta Steel Development Project, to which the Soviet Union has made the biggest contribution, Alhaji Rilwanu assured his Soviet counterpart that Nigeria was deeply committed to the project and was determined to ensure its completion within the scheduled period.

The Soviet foreign minister in his response paid tribute to the present leadership in Nigeria and said the great height of the relations between the two countries was a credit to the leadership.

Meanwhile, President Ibrahim Babangida is today expected to receive in audience the visiting Soviet foreign minister, Mr. Eduard Shevardnadze at Dodan Barracks. The Soviet minister, who arrived in Lagos yesterday on an official visit, will also address a news conference before returning home.

Ivory Coast

Police Block Off University as Professors Meet

*AB2603175490 Paris AFP in English 1749 GMT
26 Mar 90*

[Text] Abidjan, March 26 (AFP)—Police blocked off roads leading to the University of Abidjan where members of the Ivory Coast's National Union of University Professors were to have met Monday.

About 100 professors who came to take part in the meeting then decided to drive to the center of town about 10 kilometers (six miles) from the campus. About 50 policemen blocked off streets around the presidential palace with police vans.

Union members were expected to present a document in which its Secretary-General Marcel Ette was to deliver an "autopsy" of the Ivorian economy and declare its opposition to salary cuts announced by the government this month.

Authorities on Monday banned all public meetings and demonstrations as doctors at the economic capital's two biggest hospitals went on a 48-hour strike and nurses threatened to join the movement.

The doctors have gone on strike in protest at a government austerity plan which calls for substantial pay cuts for senior public service employees.

The government is facing mounting resistance as it tries to impose austerity measures demanded by the International Monetary Fund in exchange for economic aid to rescue Ivory Coast from bankruptcy.

Police Interrogate 74 Teachers

*AB2603182790 Paris AFP in French 1806 GMT
26 Mar 90*

[Text] Abidjan, 26 Mar (AFP)—The Ivorian authorities this evening interrogated 74 teachers who were holding a

peaceful demonstration in front of the Presidency. This was reported by AFP journalists at the scene.

About 50 others are presently sitting near the Presidency where the demonstration was blocked.

Among the 74 teachers being questioned is Professor Marcel Ette, the general secretary of the National Union for Research and Higher Education (SYNARES).

100 'Protestors' Arrested

*AB2703075990 Abidjan Domestic Service in French
0700 GMT 27 Mar 90*

[Text] In a communique issued yesterday and broadcast on national radio, the government ordered a ban on all demonstrations and meetings throughout Ivorian territory until further notice. Violating this strict order, the National Union for Research and Higher Education [SYNARES] decided to organize a meeting on the university campus. Although it is true that up until now this organization has been conducting its activities not as a union but as an opposition party, the SYNARES has benefited from President Houphouet-Boigny's tolerance. But, in the present situation, the ban on all meetings should have been respected in accordance with the decision made the same day by the government. Despite this ban, the SYNARES organized two processions—one from Cocody and the other from Treichville—which headed for the presidential palace, thus disturbing public order. About 100 of these protesters led by Marcel Ette, the SYNARES secretary general, were arrested and detained at the Akuedo Military Camp where they will be allowed to reflect on the principle that no one is above the law.

FPI Demands Professors' Release

*AB2703130590 Paris AFP in French 0135 GMT
27 Mar 90*

[Text] Abidjan, 27 Mar (AFP)—The Ivorian Popular Front (FPI), an Ivorian opposition party seeking legalization, yesterday declared its support for the teachers arrested during a demonstration in Abidjan. In a release sent to AFP, the FPI said "it supports the just struggle of the teachers and researchers who staged their demonstration in protest against all economic measures aimed at reducing their salaries" and "demands the release" of the people arrested yesterday.

The FPI, led by Professor Laurent Gbagbo, the best known Ivorian opposition movement, "condemns all repressive measures perpetrated against Ivorian workers."

About 150 people, members of the National Union for Research and Higher Education [SYNARES], were arrested yesterday in front of the presidential palace where they had staged a peaceful demonstration after they were prevented by security forces from holding a meeting on the university campus. They were protesting

against the government's decision to reduce the salaries of civil servants and workers in the private sector.

The government yesterday banned all meetings and demonstrations following the call for a general strike launched by salaried doctors, the first of its kind.

The people arrested include the secretary general of the SYNARES, 60-year-old Professor Marcel Ette, the representative of Amnesty International, Professor Francis Wodie, and Mr. Emile Boga, a lecturer at the Law School and Professor Gbagbo's lawyer.

Medical Workers Continue to Strike

Strike 'Followed 95 Percent'

*AB2603142090 Paris AFP in French 1258 GMT
26 Mar 90*

[Excerpt] Abidjan, 26 Mar(AFP)— The 48-hour strike launched today at the request of the National Trade Union of Senior Officers of Health of Ivory Coast (SYNACASSCI) to protest the reduction of salaries announced by the government was followed extensively by salaried doctors in Abidjan, union sources pointed out. No official reports were made.

According to the unions, the strike order launched by the SYNACASSCI was followed by 95 percent of the 350 doctors practicing in the two University Teaching Hospitals [CHU] of Abidjan—the Cocody CHU (630 beds) and the Treichville CHU (852 beds). Abidjan has a third University Teaching Hospital at Yopougon (508 beds), but it is still not open to the public.

The situation, on the other hand, was normal in the Regional Hospitals (CHR) of Yamoussoukro, the capital, and Bouake, the country's second largest city, officials of these health centers and authorized centers told AFP. It was impossible to reach other big towns in the country by telephone.

The strike action does not concern doctors in the private sector. The majority of the 240 doctors who practice at

the CHU of Cocody, near the University of Abidjan, were absent from the hospital this morning, an AFP reporter noted. The Cocody CHU was open to the public, but there were no consultations. Emergency cases were handled by the CHU of Treichville.

The majority of the 120 doctors of the Treichville CHU met with their colleagues of the Cocody CHU in front of the nurses institute on the premises of the Treichville CHU. Minister of Health Alain Ekra and minister of internal security, General Issouf Kone, were at the CHU but there were no negotiations, AFP reporters noted. The doctors left the Treichville CHU late in the morning after deciding to meet again tomorrow morning, most of them told AFP. [passage omitted]

Strike 'Diversely Observed'

*AB2603204390 Abidjan Television Ivoirienne Network
in French 2000 GMT 26 Mar 90*

[Text] [Passage omitted on government communique on doctors' strike] Concerning that strike, it must be noted that the strike was diversely observed in Abidjan in the two CHU [University Hospital Centers] and the various health institutions. Some units functioned normally. Such was the case at the intensive care unit of the Emergency Medical Assistance Service and the cardiology unit. In the country's interior, according to correspondents of the IVORIAN NEWS AGENCY, most of the doctors were at their duty stations. These observations made on the spot have been confirmed by the Ministry of Public Health and Population.

'Total, Indefinite' Strike Announced

*AB2703133690 Abidjan Domestic Service
in French 1245 GMT 27 Mar 90*

[Text] We have been informed that the National Trade Union of Senior Officers of Health of Ivory Coast has decided to embark on a total and indefinite strike and to stop handling emergency cases.

END OF

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DATE FILMED

29 March 1990

